

LEWES BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED - 31st DECEMBER, 1971.





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LEWES BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1971

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Greene

Vice Chairman: Councillor Birkbeck

Councillors:

Denton Mrs. Holtam

Fairlee Martin

Mrs. Fitch Nicholl

Hayward Mrs. Reed

Hoile Williams

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

J. L. Cotton, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. from November, 1960.

The Grange, Southover, Lewes.  
Telephone No. Lewes 4282

Public Health Inspectorate

C. W. Mann, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.P.H.E., Chief Public Health Inspector (from 1st November, 1970)

E. Peter, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector (from 1st May, 1967)

Office Staff

A. J. Sheppard (from 20th January, 1947)



To the Mayor, the Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee, the Aldermen and Members of the Lewes Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the state of public health and on the sanitary circumstances of Lewes Borough for 1971.

The vital statistics of the area compare very favourably with those for England and Wales and do not call for any special comment.

During the year 38 cases of infectious disease were notified of which 28 were measles. None of the remaining notifications were of particular significance. Four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

A further 42 dwellings were built by the Council during the year and in addition, 15 by private enterprise. The number of houses in the Borough was reduced by 20 due to demolition but some 26 similar properties were dealt with as individually unfit houses. This method gives the owners the opportunity to submit a specification of works which will render the property fit for habitation thus avoiding demolition. A further 47 properties were made fit by the use of improvement grants.

Now that the date for the implementation of the reorganisation of Local Government and of the Health Services is less than two years away, it is pertinent to say a few words about the future. The role of the Medical Officer of Health under the altered title of Community Physician and his relationship with the new District Councils has still to be made public and hence cannot usefully be commented upon at this stage. However, environmental health is to remain with the District Councils. The control of environmental health is becoming increasingly complicated and is moving away from the original aspects of public health such as the provision of pure water supplies and sewerage and sewage disposal although in many cases sewage disposal facilities still remain inadequate. Even housing, as you will see from this report, is no longer the seemingly intractable problem that it presented only a limited number of years ago. The majority of families now inhabit houses which contain all modern amenities even though in some areas of the country much remains to be done to provide every family with such accommodation. The newer problems which now demand attention include pollution of the environment and the nuisance caused by noise. The latter may well prove to be the greatest problem of all and the most difficult to remedy. Through the offices of the Public Health Department, the Council are kept advised of all those matters relating to environmental health which are set out in detail in my report. With the approach of Local Government reorganisation it will be important to ensure that the independence of the department is preserved in order that, with the ever growing sophistication in the wide spectrum of environmental health, the Council may continue to receive advice and service on such matters unfettered by conditions of expediency.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and support I have received from them during the year. My thanks are also due to Mr. Mann and Mr. Peter for their valuable assistance, and to the other officials of the Council for their courtesy and co-operation.

I am Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. COTTON,

Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION ISTATISTICS FOR THE AREA(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Area (acres)  | 1,993    |
| Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1971) | 14,080   |
| Population (1931 Census)                                    | 10,993   |
| Population (1951 Census)                                    | 13,106   |
| Population (1961 Census)                                    | 13,637   |
| Net increase of population during year                      | Nil      |
| Number of occupied houses 1951                              | 3,915    |
| Number of occupied houses 1961                              | 4,386    |
| Number of occupied houses 1971                              | 4,970    |
| Rateable Value (1st April, 1971)                            | £890,743 |
| Product of a penny rate                                     | £8,550   |

(b) VITAL STATISTICS1. Births & Birth Rates

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| <u>LEWES</u>   | <u>ENGLAND</u>     |
| <u>BOROUGH</u> | <u>&amp; WALES</u> |

|  |      |        |       |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Live Births  | 186  |        |       |
| Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude)           | 13.2 | 16.0   |       |
| * Corrected birth rate                                 | 15.0 |        |       |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | 5.0  |        |       |
| Still births   | 1    |        |       |
| Still births rate per 1,000 live and still births      | 5    | 13.0   |       |
| Total live and still births                            | 187  |        |       |
| Live births  | Male | Female | Total |
| Legitimate   | 90   | 87     | 177   |
| Illegitimate   | 7    | 2      | 9     |
|  | 97   | 89     | 186   |

2. Deaths & Death Rates

|   |      |        |       |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| Deaths  | 175  |        |       |
| Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)                                     | 12.4 | 11.6   |       |
| * Corrected death rate  | 11.2 |        |       |
| Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)   |      |        |       |
| Legitimate  | Male | Female | Total |
|   | 1    | -      | 1     |
|   | -    | -      | -     |
|   | 1    | -      | 1     |
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births                             | 5    | 18.0   |       |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births                   | 6    | 17.0   |       |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births               | 0    | 24.0   |       |
| Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | 5    | 12.0   |       |

Deaths & Death Rates Cont'd

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>LEWES<br/>BOROUGH</u> | <u>ENGLAND<br/>&amp; WALES</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|

|   |    |      |
|---|----|------|
| Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)                                | 5  | 10.0 |
| Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | 11 | 22.0 |
| Maternal mortality (including abortions)  |    |      |
| Number of deaths  | 0  |      |
| Rate per 1,000 live and still births  | 0  |      |

\* In order to compare death rates and birth rates in different parts of the country, the Registrar General supplies comparability factors for every district, so as to adjust for irregularities regarding age and sex in the local population. Applying a comparability factor of 1.14 to the crude birth rate of 13.2 the adjusted rate becomes 15.0. Similarly a comparability factor of 0.90 applied to the crude death rate of 12.4 makes the adjusted rate 11.2. This is below the rate for England and Wales at 11.6.

POPULATION

The population of Lewes for the last ten years is given below:-

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Population</u> | <u>Births</u> | <u>Deaths</u> | <u>Birth Rate</u> | <u>Adjusted Birth Rate</u> | <u>Death Rate</u> | <u>Adjusted Death Rate</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1962        | 13,810            | 192           | 166           | 13.9              | 15.2                       | 12.0              | 10.8                       |
| 1963        | 13,870            | 200           | 191           | 14.4              | 16.4                       | 13.8              | 12.7                       |
| 1964        | 13,890            | 214           | 170           | 15.4              | 17.6                       | 13.7              | 12.6                       |
| 1965        | 14,020            | 210           | 179           | 15.0              | 17.1                       | 12.8              | 11.7                       |
| 1966        | 14,070            | 187           | 181           | 13.3              | 15.2                       | 12.9              | 11.9                       |
| 1967        | 14,080            | 218           | 158           | 15.5              | 17.7                       | 11.2              | 10.4                       |
| 1968        | 14,160            | 210           | 174           | 14.8              | 16.9                       | 12.3              | 11.4                       |
| 1969        | 14,030            | 175           | 179           | 12.5              | 14.3                       | 12.8              | 11.3                       |
| 1970        | 14,080            | 195           | 160           | 13.8              | 15.7                       | 11.4              | 10.3                       |
| 1971        | 14,080            | 186           | 175           | 13.2              | 15.0                       | 12.4              | 11.2                       |

The population figure remains the same as that recorded in respect of 1970.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No case of maternal mortality occurred in Lewes during 1971. The last previous maternal death of a Lewes resident occurred during 1965.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

One infant death occurred during 1971 giving an infantile mortality rate of 5 per 1,000 live births. In small populations, too much importance should not be attached to these figures since a difference of one death makes a very large variation in the rate per 1,000. There were no significant features about the causes of death in the death recorded.

BIRTH RATE

The crude birth rate for the year under review was 13.2 per 1,000 population. The figure is lower than the rate for 1970. Applying the area comparability factor of 1.14 the adjusted birth rate becomes 15.0 which is lower than the rate for England and Wales.

### DEATH RATE

The crude death rate for Lewes for 1971 was 12.4 per 1,000 population. This figure is higher than the rate for 1970 of 11.4. Applying the area comparability factor of 0.90, the adjusted rate becomes 11.2 which is lower than the rate for England and Wales at 11.6.

The average age at death was 72.0 years

The highest age at death was 97 years

The lowest age at death was 23 hours

### SPECIFIC CAUSES OF DEATH

|     |   | <u>% of deaths</u>  |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| (1) | Disease of the heart and circulatory system                           | 68                  |
| (2) | Cancer (all sites)<br>(Cancer of the lung and bronchus accounted for) | 46<br>14            |
|     |   | 38.8<br>26.3<br>8.0 |

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951

It was not necessary to take action under the above legislation which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises persons who are not able to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, adequate care and attention.

| Cause of Death                          | Sex | Total    | Under   | 4 Weeks        |    |    |     |     |     |     |     | 75 & over |    |
|---|-----|----------|---------|----------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|----|
|   |     | All Ages | 4 Weeks | & Under 1 Year | 1- | 5- | 15- | 25- | 35- | 45- | 55- | 65-       |    |
| Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases | M   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1         | -  |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System      | M   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | 1  |
|   | F   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
| Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus           | M   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -         | -  |
| Malignant Neoplasm Stomach              | M   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | 1  |
| Malignant Neoplasm Intestine            | M   | 2        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 7        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 3         | 3  |
| Malignant Neoplasm Larynx               | M   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1         | -  |
| Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus       | M   | 9        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 7         | 1  |
|   | F   | 5        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 4         | -  |
| Malignant Neoplasm Breast               | M   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 7        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 1         | 4  |
| Leukaemia                               | M   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1         | -  |
|   | F   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms               | M   | 4        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -         | 3  |
|   | F   | 7        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 4   | 1         | 2  |
| Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms        | M   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
| Diabetes Mellitus                       | M   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 2        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -         | 1  |
| Mental Disorders                        | M   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
| Other Diseases of Nervous System        | M   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 1        | -       | -              | -  | -  | 1   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
| Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease         | M   | -        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | -  |
|   | F   | 2        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -         | 2  |
| Hypertensive Disease                    | M   | 2        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1         | 1  |
|   | F   | 3        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -         | 2  |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease                 | M   | 26       | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 6         | 8  |
|   | F   | 14       | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2   | 2         | 10 |
| Other Forms of Heart Disease            | M   | 3        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -         | 2  |
|   | F   | 5        | -       | -              | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 1         | 4  |

| Cause of Death                          | Sex | Total<br>All<br>Ages | Under      | 4 Weeks           |    |    |     |     |     |     |     | 75 &<br>Over |      |
|---|-----|----------------------|------------|-------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|------|
|   |     |                      | 4<br>Weeks | & Under<br>1 Year | 1- | 5- | 15- | 25- | 35- | 45- | 55- | 65-          |      |
| Cerebrovascular<br>Disease              | M   | 8                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | 3 5  |
|   | F   | 15                   | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | 1 14 |
| Other Diseases of<br>Circulatory System | M   | 7                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | 2   | -   | 4            | 1    |
|   | F   | 6                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2            | 4    |
| Pneumonia                               | M   | 4                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -            | 3    |
|   | F   | 4                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -            | 3    |
| Bronchitis and<br>Emphysema             | M   | 6                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2            | 4    |
|   | F   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1            | -    |
| Other Diseases of<br>Respiratory System | M   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -            | -    |
|   | F   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | 1    |
| Intestinal Obstruction<br>and Hernia    | M   | -                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
|   | F   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -            | -    |
| Cirrhosis<br>of Liver                   | M   | -                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
|   | F   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -            | -    |
| Other Diseases of<br>Digestive System   | M   | -                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
|   | F   | 2                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2   | -            | -    |
| Diseases of Musculo-<br>Skeletal System | M   | -                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
|   | F   | 2                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1            | 1    |
| Other Causes of<br>Perinatal Mortality  | M   | 1                    | 1          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
|   | F   | -                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
| Symptoms and Ill-<br>Defined Conditions | M   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | 1    |
|   | F   | -                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
| Motor Vehicle<br>Accidents              | M   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | 1    |
|   | F   | 2                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | 1            | -    |
| All Other<br>Accidents                  | M   | -                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
|   | F   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | 1    |
| Suicide and Self-<br>Inflicted Injuries | M   | -                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -            | -    |
|   | F   | 1                    | -          | -                 | -  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1            | -    |
| TOTAL ALL CAUSES                        |     | M 81                 | 1          | -                 | -  | 1  | -   | 2   | 1   | 5   | 12  | 29           | 30   |
|   |     | F 94                 | -          | -                 | -  | 1  | 1   | -   | 1   | 4   | 13  | 21           | 53   |

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

#### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

During the period under review the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Newhaven and Seaford and the Rural District of Chailey. The East Sussex United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Joint Committee, by which the Medical Officer of Health for the four districts is appointed, provides an efficient means of administering the Joint Appointment.

The Chief Public Health Inspector of Chailey Rural District fills the post of Chief Public Health Inspector with the Borough in a supervisory and consultative capacity, whilst retaining his post with Chailey Rural District Council. In addition, an Assistant Public Health Inspector carried out duties during the year.

#### 2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

#### 3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council, which houses the ambulances available in the district at the St. John Headquarters, Timberyard Lane, Lewes. During 1971 these vehicles were available for the conveyance of both infectious and non-infectious cases, and arrangements are in being for the disinfection of ambulances, bedding, clothing, etc., after use for the transport of an infectious case. All vehicles are staffed and serviced by the County Council. If a further call is received while all vehicles are out on duty, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other depots in the area. Should this prove necessary, it is done by radio control.

#### 4. NURSING IN THE HOME

The East Sussex County Council is responsible for the provision of nursing and domiciliary midwifery services in the district.

#### 5. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

| Description and Situation                           | Day and Time of Attendance  | By whom provided              |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Child Health Clinic,<br>Castlegate House,<br>LEWES. | 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon<br>2 - 4 p.m.   | East Sussex<br>County Council |
| Speech Therapy,<br>Castlegate House,<br>LEWES.      | Monday and Friday all day   | East Sussex<br>County Council |
| Family Clinic,<br>Castlegate House,<br>LEWES.       | Friday mornings 10 a.m. to 12 noon<br>(open clinic or by appointment for<br>children with minor behaviour and<br>habit disorders) | East Sussex<br>County Council |

| Description and Situation                           | Day and Time of Attendance   | By whom provided            |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Child Guidance Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.     | Every Wednesday by appointment   | East Sussex County Council  |
| Cytology Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.           | 1st and 3rd Thursday in )<br>the month ) as<br>10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and ) necessary<br>1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesday ) day at 6 p.m.                       | East Sussex County Council  |
| Chest Clinic, Victoria Hospital, LEWES              | By appointment Monday 2 p.m.<br>Wednesday 9.15 a.m. Friday<br>11.15 a.m. once a month  | Regional Hospital Board     |
| Dental Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.             | Monday to Friday by appointment  | East Sussex County Council  |
| Nervous Disorders Clinic, Victoria Hospital, LEWES. | Tuesday from 2.15 p.m. onwards   | Regional Hospital Board     |
| Family Planning Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.    | Tuesday 6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m. every Thursday in the month 6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Friday 1st, 3rd and 4th (by appointment only) 2nd Monday 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. | Family Planning Association |

## 6. HOSPITAL FACILITIES

Hospital facilities are available in the area at the Lewes Victoria Hospital and are administered by the Brighton and Lewes Hospital Management Committee.

## 7. PROVISION FOR DEALING WITH THE NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY DISORDERED

The County Council, through the Social Services Department, administers the Mental Health Services in respect of patients outside Institutions. All institutional care is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

### SECTION III

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

## 1. WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of a few private wells, which are used for recreational and trade purposes, the water supply is derived from the Brighton Corporation Waterworks, which are situated at the South-West end of the Borough.

The water is pumped from the well into four covered distributing reservoirs, namely Jubilee Park, Race Hill (2), and Western Road.

The supply is constant, of good quality, and sufficient for the needs of the community.

Brighton Corporation Water Department have taken a daily sample from consumer's premises for bacteriological examination; a fortnightly sample from the reservoirs for bacteriological and abbreviated chemical examination; and from the Southover Pumping Station, weekly samples of the water before treatment for bacteriological and abbreviated chemical examination, and after treatment for bacteriological examination; and monthly for complete chemical and mineralogical examination.

The following is a copy of the results of analysis of a sample of water taken at Southover Pumping Station:-

Brighton Water Department. Sample No. 4839.

Results of Examination of sample of water from Southover Pumping Station.

Raw, Borehole No. 2.

Taken on 24th November, 1971.

### Bacteriological Examination

| Colonies per ml                     | Counts per 100 ml  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Nutrient Agar at 20°C 3 days. . . - | Coliforms. . . . - |
| Nutrient Agar at 37°C 1 day . . . - | E. Coli. . . . -   |

### Physical Character

Chemical Analysis (Expresseed in mgm. per litre)

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| pH. . . . .                                     | 7.5   |
| Alkalinity ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ). . . . .         | 184.0 |
| Chlorides (Cl). . . . .                         | 23.6  |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) . . . . .               | Nil   |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) . . . . .               | 0.020 |
| Nitrite Nitrogen (N). . . . .                   | Nil   |
| Oxidised Nitrogen (N) . . . . .                 | 4.6   |
| Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs at 27°C) . . . .         | 0.10  |
| Temporary Hardness ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ). . . . . | 184.0 |
| Permanent Hardness ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ). . . . . | 44.0  |
| Total Hardness ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ). . . . .     | 228.0 |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Total Solids (dried at 180°C) . . . . . | 309.0 |
| Free CO <sub>2</sub> . . . . .          |       |
| Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) . . . . .    | 8.0   |
| Calcium (Ca) . . . . .                  | 86.5  |
| Magnesium (Mg) . . . . .                | 2.4   |
| Sodium (Na) . . . . .                   | 12.5  |
| Potassium (K) . . . . .                 | 1.0   |
| Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> ) . . . . .   | 11.5  |
| Iron (Fe) . . . . .                     |       |
| Manganese (Mn) . . . . .                |       |
| Conductivity . . . . .                  | 405   |
| Synthetic Detergent . . . . .           |       |
| Fluoride (F) . . . . .                  |       |

Remarks

Probable Combination of Mineral Constituents

|                   |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| CaCO <sub>3</sub> | 184.0 | mg/l. |
| CaSO <sub>4</sub> | 16.3  | "     |
| CaCl <sub>2</sub> | 22.4  | "     |
| MgCl <sub>2</sub> | 9.4   | "     |
| NaCl              | 3.8   | "     |
| NaNO <sub>3</sub> | 28.0  | "     |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>  | 8.0   | "     |
| <hr/>             |       |       |
| Total             | 271.9 | "     |
| <hr/>             |       |       |

No form of contamination of the supply has occurred during the year, and as the water is not liable to plumbago-solvent action it has not been necessary to take any action against this.

All dwelling houses in the Borough have a direct piped supply from the public water main, with the exception of 22 houses on the Cuilfail Estate which receive their piped supply via two private reservoirs which are supplied from the public water main.

Low water pressure due to old pipes of insufficient diameter has been experienced in certain houses in the Malling area and the matter was taken up with the water company who will be providing a suitable main in due course.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Main drainage is provided throughout the Borough, there being only a small number of houses which are drained to cesspools or septic tanks. Many of the systems both private and public are combined systems taking both foul and surface water, and whilst this has the benefit of flushing the drains and sewers during times of heavy rain and incidentally serves to reduce the problem of rat infestation in the sewers, it can also allow quantities of silt and grit into the system giving rise to blockages, particularly in private systems. Investigating ownership and responsibility in such cases can be extremely time consuming especially in the older parts of the town where often no accurate plans of the private systems exist.

The sewers discharge to the Outfall Works at Southerham where the effluent - after passing through a detritus chamber, screens and sedimentation tanks - is stored in holding tanks to be discharged to the River Ouse at suitable states of the tide.

At this time of an increasing awareness and need to preserve the environment, it is pleasing to note that a scheme for constructing a modern sewage disposal works to serve the Borough is with the Department of the Environment for approval. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that it will be constructed before responsibility for this service passes to the new Regional Water Authorities to be set up at the same time as Local Government reorganisation.

### 3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of refuse is carried out once weekly over the whole district and trade refuse more often where requested. Disposal of refuse has been mainly on low lying land at Malling Brooks where despite its proximity to dwelling houses, careful attention to covering the tip, disinfection and rodent control, has kept nuisances to a minimum. Final reinstatement of the tip has now begun and will in due course provide a further recreational area similar to those which have been provided in a like manner in the past.

The provision of refuse skeps at certain strategic points in the Borough for the disposal of waste by householders over and above the normal refuse collection has, however, given rise to a number of complaints throughout the year. It must be said that the complaints have arisen largely because the use of the skeps has been abused, particularly by tradesmen. However, the fact remains that they have been extremely unsightly at times and have been subject to scavenging by children. With the possible risks of caustic or poisonous material being deposited in them, the degree of benefit they bestow is open to question.

### 4. INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Houses and Premises Inspected..                             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 627 |
| Complaints attended to ..                                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 46  |
| Visits to Milkshops and Dairies ..                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9   |
| Visits to Food Shops ..                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 157 |
| Visits to Bakeries ..                                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2   |
| Visits to Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels ..                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 39  |
| Visits to Hairdressers' Establishments ..                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6   |
| Visits to Cinema ..   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1   |
| Visits to Swimming Baths ..                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 24  |
| Visits to Pet Shops ..                                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6   |
| Visits re Sickness ..                                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 42  |
| Inspections of Verminous Houses ..                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33  |
| Visits under the Petroleum Act ..                           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 99  |
| Visits under the Noise Abatement Act ..                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11  |
| Visits under the Factories Act ..                           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20  |
| Visits under the Shops Act ..                               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27  |
| Visits under the Clean Air Act ..                           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 22  |
| Visits under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 135 |
| Visits under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act ..                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6   |
| Visits re Drainage ..                                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 91  |
| Visits for sundry purposes ..                               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 165 |
| Visits for re-inspections..                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 87  |

### 5. HOUSING

#### (a) New Dwellings

There were 42 new dwellings provided by the Local Authority during the year.

(b) Slum Clearance

The Lancaster Street and North Street Compulsory Purchase Orders, comprising a total of 23 houses, were confirmed during the year. It was also decided after careful consideration to include the whole of the area bounded by North Street and Wellington Street and Waterloo Place, with the exception of those dwellings in Little East Street, as a re-development area.

132 to 150 Malling Street and 1 to 9 New Street, which were the subject of an earlier clearance area, were demolished during the year.

It seems unlikely that it will be necessary for any further areas within the Borough to be recommended for Clearance Area procedure, the remaining unfit houses being dealt with as individually unfit. To this end during the year 26 houses were dealt with in this manner showing a considerable increase over the previous year but at the same time the owners are encouraged to submit a specification of works which will render the property fit for habitation to the satisfaction of the Council. The success of this procedure is now beginning to be apparent with an increasing number of old properties in the town being improved and made fit, thus maintaining the character of the town and providing a home at considerably less cost than demolishing and re-building.

(c) Houses made fit

6 houses were made fit after formal action.

(d) Improvement Grants

Set out below are the improvement grants approved during the year. These show an encouraging increase over the previous year and every opportunity is taken to persuade owners of private property to take advantage of the scheme.

| <u>Number of applications approved</u> | <u>Number completed</u> |
|--|-------------------------|
| 37                                     | 47                      |

(e) Houses Demolished

The number of houses demolished during the year as a result of Housing Act action was 20.

(f) Qualification Certificates

The number of applications for qualification certificates to convert controlled tenancies to regulated tenancies increased very considerably during the year.

| <u>Number of applications</u> | <u>Number approved</u> | <u>Number refused</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9                             | 3                      | 1                     |

(g) Houses in Multiple Occupation

It is evident from the survey of private housing in the Borough that more houses than were at first thought are being used for multiple occupation and it is likely that the number will increase in the future. A number have already been found to be deficient in the amenities required for such use and it may be necessary for the Council to consider adopting regulations to control them.

(h) Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered common lodging houses within the Borough.

## 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) Milk Supplies

Most of the milk consumed in the Borough is heat treated. A small proportion, however, is untreated and samples of such milk were taken from time to time for examination by the Public Health Laboratory. All were found to be satisfactory with regard to tuberculosis, keeping quality, brucella abortus and antibiotic residue.

### (b) Ice Cream

There are 52 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and none for manufacture.

### (c) Meat

There are no licensed slaughterhouses within the Borough; the greater part of the home-killed meat is received from adjoining districts.

### (d) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.

### (e) Poultry

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

### (f) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations

The food premises subject to the Regulations, grouped in the categories of trade, are:-

|   |      |   |
|---|------|---|
| Bakers and Confectionery Shops. . . . . | 7 )  |   |
| Bakeries. . . . .                       | 1 )  |   |
| Butchers Shops. . . . .                 | 11 ) | Regulations 16 and 19   |
| Canteens. . . . .                       | 13 ) | apply and complied with   |
| Cooked Meats Shops. . . . .             | 2 )  |   |
| Confectioners Shops . . . . .           | 17 ) | All comply with Regulation 16, Regulation 19 applies and complied with in 13 premises |
| Dairies . . . . .                       | 5 )  |   |
| Fishmongers Shops . . . . .             | 3 )  |   |
| Fried Fish Shops. . . . .               | 4 )  |   |
| Restaurants and Cafes . . . . .         | 14 ) | Regulations 16 and 19   |
| Hotels . . . . .                        | 3 )  | apply and complied with   |
| Public Houses . . . . .                 | 24 ) |   |
| Sweet Factory . . . . .                 | 1 )  |   |
| Greengrocers Shops. . . . .             | 14 ) |   |

Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are:-

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Sale of Ice-cream            | 53 |
| Manufacture of sausages etc. | 13 |
| Fish Frying                  | 3  |

It was possible to make a start on health education in the catering industry, particularly with regard to rotating stock to reduce the risk of food becoming mouldy or otherwise unfit for consumption.

Informal notices requiring compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations were served in respect of 28 premises. No legal proceedings were instituted under the Food and Drugs Act.

(g) Unsound Food

The following summary lists food which was found on examination to be unfit for human consumption and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners for destruction:-

|                              |   |                   |         |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------|
| Assorted Frozen Foods        | - | 1,931             | packets |
| Beef                         | - | 6                 | lbs     |
| Ham                          | - | 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ | lbs     |
| Assorted Food following fire | - | 201               | lbs     |
| Tongue                       | - | 3                 | lbs     |

A number of complaints were received of food being sold which was unfit for human consumption or otherwise unsatisfactory. These included:-

- Mould in Prunes
- Mould in tin of corn
- Insect in sardines
- Mould in loaf of bread
- Insect in rice
- Mould in pre-cooked pork slices
- Mould in pre-packed individual apricot pie

7. PEST CONTROL

In addition to dealing with individual complaints of rat or mice infested premises, regular inspections and surveys were made of premises and land which had a record of previous infestations.

The Council's refuse tip was kept under close supervision, and treatments were carried out as and when found necessary.

The number of visits made to premises under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act was 143 and the number of infestations cleared was 116.

Pigeon Control

Following continued complaints of nuisance from feral pigeons particularly in the vicinity of Cliffe Bridge, the Council resolved to employ a specialist contractor to undertake a partial clearance of the area. The control measure taken was effective for the time being though it is probable that the nuisance will recur as the number of pigeons increases in the area. Control measures were also taken by the owners of a building in Fisher Street where nuisance was also being caused.

Other Pests

A large number of wasps' nests were dealt with by a contractor employed by the Council and a number of other pest eradication operations were undertaken.

8. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The number of office and shop premises now registered with the Council is 345, of which 110 received a general inspection involving 135 visits.

Contraventions of the Act were found in 3 premises and these were subsequently remedied following informal notices.

## 9. SHOPS ACT

An order entitled The Lewes Weekly Half-Holiday (No. 1) Exemption Order, 1971, was confirmed by the Council in respect of the Category "Household Goods". This has the effect of exempting this classification of shops from the requirements of the Shops Act 1950 which relate to compulsory closing on one half day per week.

## 10. PETROLEUM

Licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit at 30 premises.

Periodic inspections were carried out and advice given where necessary to comply with licence conditions.

## 11. SWIMMING BATHS

The Council's open air swimming bath at The Pells is 150 feet by 75 feet, with depths varying from 2 feet to 5 feet, and a capacity of 200,000 gallons. The bath is emptied, cleansed and refilled as and when found necessary, usually at two-monthly intervals, and in addition approximately one-seventh of the volume of water is changed daily by pumping from the borehole.

The continuous circulation and chlorination plant with an output of 26,000 gallons per hour maintained the water in a very satisfactory bacteriological condition and regular samples were taken to check the quality of the water.

## 12. NUISANCES

The majority of the nuisances brought to the notice of the Council were dealt with informally and in most instances the abatement of the nuisance was secured by these means. The principal nuisances in respect of which informal notices were served fell into the following categories:-

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Noise                 | 2 |
| Dumping of Refuse     | 1 |
| Smell                 | 1 |
| General Public Health | 4 |

## 13. DRAINAGE

Inspections were made in connection with defective drainage at 91 premises in the town.

## 14. CLEAN AIR ACT

A number of inspections of boiler plants were carried out during the year and a number of complaints investigated. It is hoped shortly to introduce continuous monitoring of the dust from the cement works situated on the outskirts of the Borough and also to measure the degree of pollution from smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, particularly in the low lying areas of the town which are prone to inversion characteristics.

## 15. FOOD POISONING

9 cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated during the year and the appropriate action taken. Six of the cases were confirmed.

## 16. FACTORIES ACT

There are 19 factories in the Borough in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act are to be enforced by the Council. During the year 7 inspections were carried out on this class of factory.

There are 68 factories registered under Section 7 of the Act. Inspections were carried out at 13 of these premises and 2 defects concerning sanitary conveniences were remedied as a result of informal action.

There are 3 persons employed as outworkers making or repairing wearing apparel. No instance of work in unwholesome premises was found.

### PART I OF THE ACT

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

| Particulars  | No. on Register | Inspections | No. of written notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....                | 19              | 7           | -                      | Nil                  |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.....              | 68              | 13          | -                      | Nil                  |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding Out-Workers' Premises) | 9               | -           | -                      | Nil                  |
| TOTALS:  | 96              | 20          | -                      | Nil                  |

#### 2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:-

| PARTICULARS  | NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH defects were found |          |
|--|---|----------|
|  | FOUND                                       | REMEDIED |
| Want of cleanliness  | -   | -        |
| Overcrowding   | -   | -        |
| Unreasonable Temperature   | -   | -        |
| Inadequate Ventilation   | -   | -        |
| Ineffective drainage of floors   | -   | -        |
| Sanitary Conveniences  |   |          |
| (a) Insufficient   | 2   | 2        |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective  | -   | -        |
| (c) Not separate for sexes   | -   | -        |
| Other offences against the Act<br>(not including offences relating to Outwork) | -   | -        |
| TOTALS:  | 2   | 2        |

PART VIII of the ACT

OUTWORK  
(SECTIONS 133 and 134)

| Nature<br>of<br>Work  | Section 133  |  |   | Section 134 |
|---|--|--|---|-------------|
|   | No. of out-workers<br>in August list<br>required by Section<br>133 (1) (c) | No. of cases<br>of default in<br>sending lists<br>to the Council | No. of<br>prosecutions<br>for failure<br>to supply<br>lists |             |
| Wearing ) Making<br>Apparel ) etc.,<br>) Cleaning<br>) and<br>) Washing | 3  | -  | -   | -           |

SECTION IVPREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASESINFECTIOUS DISEASE

38 cases of infectious disease were notified in Lewes in 1971. The details are as follows:-

| DISEASE            | NUMBER OF CASES | CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL | DEATHS |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Measles            | 28              | 1                          | -      |
| Whooping Cough     | 2               | -                          | -      |
| Infective Jaundice | 1               | -                          | -      |
| Food Poisoning     | 6               | 1                          | -      |
| Dysentery          | 1               | -                          | -      |
| TOTAL              | 38              | 2                          | -      |

SECTION VTUBERCULOSIS

In 1971, four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified amongst Lewes residents. There were also two inward transfers of pulmonary tuberculosis. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. Ten cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were removed from the register during the year. Six of these cases left the district, three recovered and one died. One person suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis left Lewes and was removed from the register.

The incidence of six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1971 is 0.43 per 1,000 population. Four of these cases were, however, inward transfers, and the incidence of the two cases originating in Lewes was 0.14 per 1,000 population.

NUMBER OF CASES ON THE REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1971

| <u>MALES</u>     |                      | <u>FEMALES</u>   |                      | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <u>Pulmonary</u> | <u>Non-Pulmonary</u> | <u>Pulmonary</u> | <u>Non-Pulmonary</u> |              |
| 42               | 44                   | 8                | 5                    | 99           |

Whereas at 31st December, 1970, the number of cases on the register was:-

|    |    |   |   |     |
|----|----|---|---|-----|
| 43 | 47 | 9 | 5 | 104 |
|----|----|---|---|-----|





